

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 955

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Wanda Parrett Craven of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Wanda Parrett Craven, a woman whose love of travel and friendly personality fueled her involvement in many worthy organizations in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Parrett graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1951 and married her high school sweetheart, C.W. "Pete" Craven, in 1952; and

WHEREAS, after years of volunteer work, Mrs. Craven gained employment with Polaris Travel, Inc., in Oak Ridge; after buying the agency in 1978, she proved herself to be an adept businesswoman and was named Retailer of the Year in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Craven served as president of the Oak Ridge Sister City organization for Naka Machi, Japan, and Obninsk, Russia; in the latter role, she made many friends in Russia while working to strengthen relations between the two cities and helping coordinate several business openings in Obninsk, including a travel agency, for which she trained agents during their visit to Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, truly a humanitarian of the world, Mrs. Craven was instrumental in the effort to send pediatric supplies to orphanages in Romania and funded a trip to Romania for a doctor and a nurse to treat the children; she raised money for the construction of an elementary school in Cañuelas, Argentina, also providing books, computers, and software for the project, and solicited donations for children's books to help both adults and children in China learn the English language; and

WHEREAS, one of Mrs. Craven's favorite trips was to Hong Kong to shop with her friends, and she also enjoyed traveling with her husband and their grandchildren to various locations around the world; and

WHEREAS, a woman who appreciated the responsibilities of citizenship, Mrs. Craven served as the first female president of Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary; co-chair of the fundraising drive to build the Oak Ridge campus of Roane State Community College; a founding member of Crown Monarch; a member of the steering committee for the annual Oak Ridge Prayer Breakfast; one of the founders and a past board member of the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitor's Bureau; a member of the board of directors of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce; a co-developer of Leadership Oak Ridge; a partner-in-education with Woodland Elementary School; a member of the Foundation Board of Methodist Medical Center; and a member of the Roane State Community College board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Craven's family was one of the founding families of Central Baptist Church (originally Highland View Baptist), and she had been a faithful member there since 1947, loving the Lord and serving Him diligently; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable public servant is survived by her husband, C.W. "Pete" Craven; daughters and sons-in-law, Vicky Craven Scruggs and Jerry Scruggs and Cheryl Craven Graham and Richard Graham; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; brothers, Phillip Parrett (Bonnye) and Jerry Parrett (Frances); sister Kathy Moore (Dan Tuxbury); many nieces and nephews; and very special friends Phyllis Woodard, Cassie Shipley, and Pat Coffey; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Craven was preceded in death by her son, Michael Anthony Craven; parents, Lester and Hazel Parrett; and sisters Joyce Jannen, AnnaBella Lane, and Angela Collins; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Parrett Craven leaves behind an indelible legacy of humanitarian aid to her fellow human beings in Oak Ridge and across the globe, civic involvement in her community, and humble service in her faith; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we celebrate the life of Wanda Parrett Craven, even as we honor her memory, reflecting fondly upon her many contributions to improving our society and our world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Craven.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.